



SEP 26 2005

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	09/626,577
Filing Date	July 27, 2000
First Named Inventor	Terrance A. Tomkow
Art Unit	2155
Examiner Name	Philip B. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	RPOST-57228

2155

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	ELLSWORTH R. ROSTON		
Date	SEPTEMBER 23, 2005	Reg. No.	16,310

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Donna M. Colon

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/626,577
Applicant : Terrence A. Tomkow
Filed : July 27, 2000
Art Unit : 2155
Examiner : Philip B. Tran

Docket No.: : RPOST-57228
Customer No. : 24201
Confirmation No. : 9588

COMMUNICATION TO THE PATENT OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Attn.: Mr. Philip Tran

Dear Mr. Tran:

I appreciate your conversations with me in an attempt to advance the prosecution of application 09/626,577 (our file RPOST-57228). In our telephone conversation of 09/22/05, you indicated that you might have to divide the claims in application 09/626,577 into different groups. I indicated to you that I would be willing to suggest how, in my opinion, any classification of the claims in application 09/626,577 into divisional groups might be made. In my opinion, all of the claims (except for claims 159-160, 162 and 164) should be classified in a single group because all of these claims recite

the step of transferring information from the RPOST server to the sender after the delivery of the information to the recipient. This is a key feature in providing for the allowance of the claims in this group over the prior art.

There is an advantage in transferring the information from the RPOST server to the sender. By providing this transfer, the RPOST sender can then destroy this information. This minimizes the records that the RPOST server has to keep. If the RPOST server had to maintain all of these records for subsequent authentication, it would be deluged with records and the system would as a practical matter become inoperable. Furthermore, since the sender decides when he wishes an authentication to be provided, it is appropriate for the sender to store the records so that he can then submit the records to the RPOST server for authentication.

You may wish to look at patent application publication 2002/0091782A1. This publication was cited as prior art by the USPTO in application 10/094,112 (attorney's file RPOST-60121) filed by applicant and assigned of record to the assignee of record of this application. Publication 2002/0091782A1 discloses an authenticator in which the server corresponding to the RPOST server retains the information to be authenticated instead of transmitting the information to the sender. However, the server corresponding to RPOST server retains this information only for a limited period of time. Although not expressly indicated in the publication, the purpose of providing a limited period is to prevent the RPOST server from being deluged with messages which are to be authenticated. Thus, authentication can occur only in the limited period. This is in contrast to the system

disclosed and claimed in this application 09/626,577 where the authentication can occur at any time after the sending of the message to the recipient.

Claims 159, 160, 162 and 164 do not recite the step of transferring information from the RPOST server to the sender. They would accordingly be subject to division. If these are the only claims in the group, we would be willing to amend these claims so that the claims recite the step of transferring, from the RPOST server to the sender, the information that would be involved in the authentication. Claims 159, 160, 162 and 164 would then be included in the same group as the other claims in the application.

We understand that you will attempt to delay beyond October 17, 2005 your examination of the amendment that we filed on August 17, 2005. The delay would be predicated on the basis that we filed a supplemental preliminary amendment on September 13, 2005. In this way, the time for you to issue an Office Action in application 09/626,577 would be extended to November 13, 2005. This would give you time to make a search of the prior art to obtain additional references to cite in combination with Barkan against the claims in application 09/626,577. It would also provide us additional time to study your newly cited prior art and to discuss with you and the Primary Examiner the citation against the claims of the combination of Barkan and your newly cited prior art.

Please advise me if you have been successful in obtaining an extension of time to issue an Office Action in application 09/626/577.

We are sending this communication to the USPTO via regular mail and we are also sending you a copy to your fax number so that you will have an opportunity to consider the above before the mailed copy reaches your desk.

We would like to express again our appreciation of your cooperation in attempting to resolve the issues relating to the claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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